



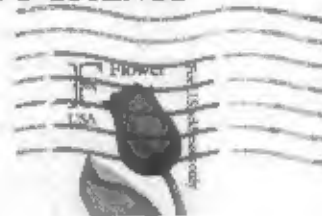
COLORADO SPRINGS,
COLORADO



JANUARY 1992

INSIDE:

HAM RADIO IN COLORADO SPRINGS
PRE-WWII



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ZERO BEAT is published monthly in the interest of the members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc., P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935. For membership and subscription information see last page of this publication. The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Elk's Lodge, 3400 North Nevada Ave. at 7 p.m.

EDITOR: Ron Deutsch NK0P 4305 Ridgeline Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80918 (719) 593-8352.

Deadline for submission of articles or ads is the 21st of each month. Submissions may be sent to the editor or to the club mail box. Permission to reprint articles is granted provided credit is given to both the author and this publication.

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HAM RADIO IN COLORADO SPRINGS

One of the functions of a club newsletter is to provide members with a coherent history of happenings relating to the club. Since our club does not have a "clubhouse" or other physical location that belongs to the members we must rely on individual members to keep our history.

When I took over the newsletter from NYØT, I was given a box of old newsletters dating back to about 1970. It is great fun to look back at club happenings through the window of our newsletter. I suspect many of you wonder as I do what Ham radio was like in Colorado Springs 25 or 50 years ago. I recently found a reference to the PPARA (was this an early PPRAA?) in a QST from 1938.

There are a lot of missing years between 1970 and the beginnings of Ham radio on Colorado Springs. Many of you know of activities and anecdotes relating to radio operation before 1970. Would you be willing to share these with the club? I would like to run a series of articles on our history, but to do that I need your help.

Al, N2IWZ has spent a lot of time and effort to bring you the history in this issue of Zero-Beat. If you like what you see and have information that would fit this category give one of us a call and share your experience.
Ron, NKØP

Committee Chairpersons, etc.

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CCARC:	Oak Stokton KØROL	570-7762
Club Trailer:	Steve Westby WB7VHR	570-1070
Ø-BEAT:	Ron Deutsch NKØP	593-8352



OPERATING EVENTS

January, 1992

18 - 19, ARRL VHF Sweepstakes, page 99 of December, 1991, QST.

24 - 26, CQ WW 160 Meter CW Contest.

25 - 2 February, Details in January QST. Also, see separate article in this issue of Zero Beat.

February, 1992

2, North American CW Sprint.

8 - 9, QCWA CW QSO Party.

8 - 9, YLRL YL/OM SSB QSO Party.

9, North American SSB Sprint.

15 - 16, ARRL DX CW Contest, Details in December 1991, QST.

21 - 23, CQ WW 160 Meter SSB Contest.



REPAIR KIT X49K2T FOR THIS KIND OF UNIT IS LISTED AS A STICK OF SPEARMINT AND A BOBBYPIN!

-- American Forces Press Service

NOVICE ROUNDUP

by Rick Brown, KD0SU

The Novice Roundup is a contest to encourage operation by Novice and Technician class operators. The object is for Novice and Technician operators to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible in the Novice bands. All authorized modes may be used. Higher class licensees work Novices and Technicians only.

In order to encourage operation by all members of the PPRAA the Board of Directors decided to sponsor a contest within the club for those entering this contest. The PPRAA will provide a Certificate of Accomplishment for the highest scoring Novice and Technician club member who enters this contest.

In order to encourage higher class licensees to get on the air and work Novices and Technicians, the club will also provide a prize to the club member who works the greatest number of Novices and Technicians. This is a great opportunity for our club members to participate and to encourage good operating practice by some of the newer members of our hobby. For those of you who wish to improve your code speed, this is a great time also. Higher class licensees are not eligible for awards from the ARRL for this contest.

The complete rules for this contest will be in the January 1991 issue of QST. Although the contest covers a nine day period, only 30 hours of actual operation are allowed for the entrants.

I would like to personally encourage you to participate in this operating event. I worked many stations last year and had a great deal of fun. Even if you are not particularly interested in contests, this is an event everyone can participate in and learn a great deal. Please get on the air and join us.

Those members wishing to enter the club competition should send their entries to me by March 2, 1992. I encourage you to submit your logs to the ARRL as well. My address is:

Rick Brown, KD0SU
3249 Squaw Valley Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

VOLUNTEER EXAM RESULTS

Results of the Volunteer Examining Session on December 14th. The following people upgraded to the license class indicated. Congratulations to all. This was quite a test session with 19 of 29 people upgrading, and others receiving element credit. Thanks to Chris Smith, NX0E and all of the other examiners for their work.

Technician

Christopher Banks
Donald French
Joanne Caton
Beverly Alexander
Jackie Ward
Ronald Boobier
Colleen Galbraith
Janet Ross
William Mayfield
Charlene Barnes

Technician with HF

Jimmie Unger
William Seybold
Philip Seybold
Karen Wood

General

Michael Reisman
John Galbraith

Advanced

Robert French

Extra

Willis Pewitt
Douglass Alan

NOVEMBER 1971



ROSIE'S REPORTINGS

By
Rosemarie Lewis
WA6MNL

W6GCH, George Kowalski, our new President, in conjunction with the FCC (Friendly Children Commission) and his XYL, Shirley, added to the family September 25, with the birth of a son, Kenneth John. George is now getting used to the knack of handling a baby in one hand and a mike in the other.

-rr-

The Colorado YL meeting in Pueblo dissolved some of the distance of traveling to meetings by deciding to have half of the meetings in each area. The November station meeting will be in Palmer lake on November 13. Meeting will start at 1 p.m., all YLS, licensed or not, are invited to all Colorado YL meetings. The December 11 meeting will be a Christmas Party meeting at Dotts Fine Foods, 1800 S. Nevada, in the Springs. A \$1 gift exchange is planned as part of the meeting.

-rr-

John Summers Jr., WA6HHO/ZL3-HQ, has been promoted to the rank of First Class in the U. S. Navy.

-rr-

Rod Koch, W9GQT/B, USAF, is leaving the Springs area for a new assignment in Texas. Rod says he enjoyed his association with the PPRAA while he was stationed at the USAF Academy.

-rr-

Linda Vidmar, WA6MNM, is now on 2 meter FM.

-rr-

Jim Irvin, WA7MMR/B, expects a transfer from the Springs area ere long.

-rr-

"Smitty," one of our most active associate members, who lives in Black Forest, is the victim of a "balky motorcycle." Don't know where he landed but he wound up with a broken collar bone.

-o-o-o-o-

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HAM RADIO IN COLORADO SPRINGS PRE WORLD WAR II

Al Craig, N2JWZ

On Saturday afternoon, November 23, Russ Calaway, KB0FNM and I had the pleasure of spending a couple of hours with Lee Austin, N0LHH while he reminisced about ham radio 50 plus years ago. Let me start right off by straightening out one anomaly. How can someone talk about his experience as a ham 50 years ago and have an N Zero call. Very simple, back in the late 30's and early 40's Lee was W9KKY but after WWII he unhappily (his words) let his license expire. The details will unfold with the story.

Lee has lived much of his life here in the Springs. He graduated from Cheyenne High School back in 1936 but his love affair with radio goes back to elementary school. As a budding entrepreneur he built crystal sets into single headphones which he then traded to his classmates for various interesting items including better headphones. As he progressed through public school his interest in amateur radio steadily grew. By the time he graduated his desire to "get on the air" was so great that he didn't let minor details like having a license stand in his way. He and a friend decided that Ford spark coils were the way to go. By keying their primaries they had no trouble in transmitting signals for the few blocks that separated their homes.

Of course this was back when radio meant only one thing, AM. Major Armstrong's FM had still not penetrated Pikes Peak country. Well Ford spark coils do make dandy AM transmitters and you don't need a very sophisticated receiver; tuning was totally irrelevant since your signal covered everything from 15 kilocycles (kilohertz hadn't been invented yet) to sunspots. The problem was that the QRM in all the neighborhood radios was something to behold. In a few days Lee and his friend noticed that the utility company's trucks were prowling the neighborhood. As you know, AM is so sensitive to any kind of electrical noise that the power companies were forced to clean up their power lines as home radio became more common. The two "amateur" amateurs decided that spark gap transmission was not the way to go.

The next attempt at transmission involved 6L6's, the main stay of many amateur transmitters for decades. (For our younger readers, a 6L6 is one of those pre-transistor dinosaurs called a vacuum tube.) With a pair of 6L6's in Class C push-pull you could get about 20 to 25 watts into your antenna. Of course this depended on your plate voltage and back in those days plates demanded lots of volts - none of this snivelling 9 or 12 volts stuff of today - 6L6's are macho devices - they wanted a few hundred volts. Well Lee

set out to achieve this by the simple expedient of coupling together four or five "B eliminators" (power supplies) which he got from defunct radios. Pretty soon he had a husky 400 volts or so. Boy did that make those 6L6's stand up and take notice. In fact the plates turned red on the dashes.

So our intrepid, but still not legal, ham was ready to reach the east coast. Such formalities as having his own license didn't deter him; he was going to do some real DXing. So he scanned a borrowed call book for a suitable call and got on the air. As luck would have it he didn't quite make the east coast but he did make contact with a ham in Chicago and a QSO ensued. Obviously Lee had to be pretty vague about a lot of the details of where he was located and other facts that would obviously not fit the real owner of his borrowed call. But things were going beautifully. He was putting out a great signal. Then suddenly, all of his B eliminators exploded, as if hit by lightning from a vengeful Hiram Percy Maxim who would not tolerate the blasphemy of a "borrowed" call, regardless of how good the signal was.

Well a chastened Lee decided that maybe it was time to go legal and get a license of his own. And with this commitment to legality came a distinct improvement in fortune. He had the good luck to find a real mentor, Walt Hart, a former New York City magician turned radio engineer. Walt worked for the old KFUM which later became KVOR. With the aid of some adult education money Hart started a radio school for code and theory. Lee enrolled and got his license, W9KKY in April, 1938.

About the same time Lee joined the 168th Field Artillery, a reserve unit, to further his radio education. Walt Hart was radio sergeant. Sometime later Lee was offered the chance to go east to MIT with his commanding officer but being married, with two small children, he turned it down. He sometimes wonders about that decision and the change that it would have made in his life.

Ham radio had been around the Springs long enough that there were some old timers, even 53 years ago. In fact there was a Pikes Peak Amateur Radio Association back to at least the very early 30's, possibly even into the 20's. The evidence for this is that in August of 1933 the club sponsored the Seventh Annual Convention of the Rocky Mountain Division of the ARRL. We are fortunate to have a copy of the program for that convention. It seems likely that the PPARA would have had to have been a seasoned organization at least 3 or 4 years old to undertake such a responsibility. Furthermore the program was professionally done complete with a variety of advertisements and printed here in the Springs. This raises some tantalizing questions about the very early history of ham radio here in the Springs. Unfortunately, this period exceeds the length of Lee's memory.

continued on page 8

THE PIKES PEAK HAMMETER

ISSUED BY
W9OKY



June 27, 1939

W9FXQ has been off the air for the past week due to QRM from out-of-state visitors, but has found time to put four or five of the recently acquired BCL receivers in working condition. He has for sale:

2 mounted BC receivers @ \$5.00 each

15 power transformers from receivers of all descriptions

4 BC receivers, make a bid

Ed is still making plans for new rig to be built this fall.

Al Bruening and Carl Drumeller will build the modulator for the club transmitter as all the parts for it are now at hand.

The club was visited last Friday by W7EQC, F. H. Kistler, of Butte, Montana.

Lee Austin has been on 80 meter fone using an antenna three feet long.

Here is a partial list of brief descriptions of some of the rigs in town.

W9ECH, Al Bruening

Transmitter: 8L6-8L6-T2C-T55 with 8L6 mod. on the first two.

Receiver: Sky Buddy Antenna: 132' off center fed Hertz.

W9CYM, Don Clay

Transmitter: 8F6-8L6-RK39 Receiver: Sky Buddy Antenna: 678 off center fed

W9EHC, Carl Drumeller

Transmitter: 8L6-HY40Z-HD203A RF Receiver: SX16

I believe we can put in some pictures of our stations to go with the column in the Sunday Gazette, if we have the pictures, so get yours ready and sign up with me for the date.

There are some portable layouts in the August QST which look good. I think every operator should have a portable rig to get the most fun out of the game. This can go with the indoor sport very well and allow the most to be had out of your outings. It might come in mighty handy when you leave the food at home and have to get someone to bring it.

-.. W9LIU

A PPARA newsletter. W9OKY was the club call and W9LIU was Dick Martin who evidently edited this paper.

But back to the late 30's and the information we obtained from Lee. It seems that the club had a very modest newsletter called "The Pikes Peak Ham-meter". A copy of the June 27, 1939 issue appears with this article. Lee has no idea of just when the newsletter might first have been published or if another newsletter might have even predated it. But the most surprising revelation of all was that in the late 30's the PPAA had a club trailer. And as far as Lee is concerned the origin of that trailer is just as much a mystery as the origin of our present trailer is to Trailer Committee chairman, Steve Westby. That original trailer was large enough, and the club membership small enough, that they could hold their meetings in it (imagine trying to do that today). The trailer was parked at 731 N. Swope and it also held the club station, W9QKY.

Lee also gave us the lowdown on the ancient green building that stands on the lot next to his home with the call, W9EGH, painted in large but faded letters. It was the call of Al Bruening whose parents owned the property and the house next to the "shack". At the time (late 30's), Al was a student at Colorado College studying electrical engineering related subjects and he used the building as his living quarters and radio shack. He later was employed by Boeing and moved to Seattle.

Lee was very much involved with the ARRL as well as with military radio and the Red Cross radio network. He was an official broadcast station for the ARRL and an official relay station. He was also an Army Amateur Radio Station and as such was able to continue on the air after Pearl Harbor. But even that special privilege was finally withdrawn and ham radio in Colorado Springs essentially dried up.

After the war Lee intended to get active again but other activities and commitments prevented that and eventually his license expired. But he always knew that someday he'd get back into ham radio; when he retired was the usual thought. Well at a very young 73 Lee Austin has still not retired but he is back in ham radio and he owes it all to his youngest son who wasn't even around the first time Lee was a ham. A few years ago his son told Lee that he was thinking of becoming a ham. Lee decided that now was the time for him to reactivate his own interest and today, Larry Austin, N5MQO and Lee Austin, N1LHH hold regular Saturday morning skeds between Taos, New Mexico and Colorado Springs.

Who says you can't go home again?

ATTENTION

Wanted: - Historical information concerning either The Pikes Peak Amateur Radio Association or the El Paso Radio Club. If you have any printed material from either of these clubs or you know of an old-timer who belonged to either organization, Please contact: Al Craig, N2IWZ, Publicity Chairman, 594-9288.

JANUARY PPAA MEETING

THE JANUARY PPAA CLUB MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 8TH AT THE ELK'S CLUB 3400 NORTH NEVADA AVE. AT 7PM.

THE PROGRAM WILL BE:

1. HOME BREW NIGHT
2. TALK ON THE ARRL OFFICIAL OBSERVER PROGRAM.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The PPAA has joined the Amateur Radio News Service. This is an organization of newsletter editors with the goal of improving the quality of Ham club newsletters.

Over the next few months I will be incorporating some changes in the format of 0-Beat as well as printing some of the information I receive from the ARNS.

If you have comments or suggestions, forward them to:

Editor, 0-Beat
% Ron Deutsch, NK9P
4305 Ridgeland Drive
Colorado Springs, CO. 80918

I will answer your notes personally. Help me make 0-Beat a better newsletter!



A PPARA meeting in their club trailer. The picture was probably taken in the summer of 1939. Lee Austin is in the front row on the right.

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K	Xmtr.	Rcvr.
	PSE QSL TNX	Vy 73 LEE AUSTIN
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Lee Austin's first QSL card.

GENERAL MEETING

DEC. 11, 1991

Club members got together around 18:30 to have our Christmas dinner. There were 50 people who braved one of Colorado's nice ice storms. The dinner was at the ELK'S CLUB.

General meeting was called to order at 19:30 by HARV, WB6YXD by having each member introduce themselves and their guests. He thanked JEFF, N0JLH and RENAY, KA0ROY for putting the Christmas party together.

Minutes were approved as printed in *0-BEAT*. Treasurer's report was as follows:

Previous balance \$1276.13

Income \$253.00

Expenses \$269.25

Balance \$1259.38.

Committee reports were as follows:

PUBLIC SERVICE MIKE K0TER The St. Frances Penrose Snow Emergency plan needs 4 wheel operators for more info on this if you wish to volunteer contact MIKE K0TER 636-1290.

0-BEAT RON NK0P has extra *0-BEATS* with him.

OLD BUSINESS none.

NEW BUSINESS do to the resignation of Mark N0EPF from the board there is a opening on the board for duration of his term, Oct 92.

Candidates were as follows: STEVE BATES N0MHQ; MAT WARNOCK KC4KGS; BRUCE LEPLEY KB0FEL; FRANK KALTENSTEIN N0IEM; WILL ZIMMERMAN N0HRD. The winner was MAT WARNOCK.

Harv gave thanks to Mark N0EPF for his work in past years as officer and club member.

Next board meeting will be at the QTH of AL N0CMW and FRANCES N0IUT on Dec 17.

Next meeting will be on JAN. 8th. It will be Home brew night.

Luci held the Christmas raffle for members. It was announced that the H.T. would not be given away as it was not in and we had not sold enough tickets to cover it. First name drawn for belt buckle was KEN N0NKP he declined, the winner was Val Veirs N0NJZ. The one year membership was won by Ron Deutsch NK0P.

This concluded the business meeting.

Our Entertainment for this Evening was a BARBERSHOP QUARTET.

TENOR ROD WILSON, LEAD BOB ARBETTOR, BASS EVAN McHUGH, BARITONE JOE QUINN.

They had a nice program, which members enjoyed.

The HT or a certificate for it will be given away at January meeting.

submitted by AL N0CMW SEC. PPRAA

BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 17, 1991

The meeting was called to order by HARV WB6YXD at QTH of AL & FRANCES N0CMW & N0IUT at 1900.

The following members were present:

HARV WB6YXD,

AL N0CMW,

RUSS KB0FNM,

ROSIE WA0MNL,

LUCI N0IUD,

RON NK0P,

AL CRAIG N2IWZ,

STEVE WB7VHR.

We lost \$109.00 on the Christmas dinner, do to taking the word of some members that they would show up, and not showing up. It had been planned for only turning in reservations that we had money in hand for, next year it will be that way. We know that some had paid up that did not show up. We are sorry for those. We had 49 show up and had reserved 72.

The board decided for the club to pay for the meals for the entertainers do to a mix up in communications. It was \$30.00 as one did not eat.

Rosie reported she had paid the P.O. BOX rent and the clubs liability insurance policy.

Board voted to give Ken N0NKP a years membership as we should have offered him the 3rd prize at Christmas party.

The board voted to support the contest Novice Roundup, with a certificate for the Novice who gets the most points who is a club member, and also a certificate for the non novice that gives out the most points. See article in *0-BEAT* January 1992 for details by RICK BROWN KD4SU.

Board voted to join AMATEUR RADIO NEWS SERVICE, it is a newsletter compiled from articles sent in by those clubs who are members and also it furnishes hints on ways to make a newsletter better. We know ours is one of the best but the editor does need your help.

Program for January is homebrew night and a talk on official observation of our bands.

We are trying to get a bigger meeting place. Harv and a couple board members will meet with the Elks for a bigger room.

Harv and Matt are co-chairing the swapfest this year.

We are in dire need for instructor for radio classes at D&B SCHOOL contact AL CRAIG N2IWZ, OR RON NK0P if you desire to do this.

Next board meeting at QTH of RON NK0P. Meeting adjourned at 21:00

submitted by AL N0CMW SEC.

"The View From the Peak"

by George Hinds, N8CDX

If you've been staying on top of the news of amateur radio lately, you know all about the "almost-proposal" tossed out by an FCC spokesman that would:

allow amateurs to conduct personal and club business over amateur radio;

allow local governments increased access to amateur radio frequencies and services;

allow news media greater access to amateurs and amateur radio for reporting news; and

permit payment to educators to operate amateur stations.

All of this was the subject of a speech by FCC Private Radio Bureau Chief Ralph Haller, W4RH. He said his office had been kicking this issue around for some time. While his speech did not compare precisely with the written copies passed out at the meeting, he agrees that the above items are in context with his ideas.

The entire proposal revolves around the effect now of FCC rule 97.113; it often obstructs amateurs from being of service to the public in marathons, fund drives and such for non-profit organizations choosing to ask amateurs for communications assistance. Presently, it is difficult ground for an amateur to safely tread when a media representative is looking for news-gathering help. Another thing the "almost-proposal" could do is allow amateurs to re-broadcast transmissions of the Voice of America, NOAA weather and WWV, for example.

Haller contemplates that all normal amateur activity would continue as at present. But, when "normal" and "emergency" communications still left portions of amateur bands unused, amateurs could then use the unoccupied spectrum for these "almost commercial" operations (on a secondary, non-interfering basis with all other amateur communications).

Well, what do YOU think of that can of worms? Already, former FCC Special Services Division Chief Ray Kowalski has come out against the idea. He feels that it may sound great to most amateurs, but could have the effect of those "secondary communications" itemized above eventually taking precedence over normal amateur radio usage.

Haller, on the other hand, states that while he has serious concerns about opening the amateur radio service to other services, he believes there are things that can be done to utilize the amateur service beyond what the rules presently permit.

In closing, I'll remind the reader that all of this is subject to the usual FCC procedures of proposed rulemaking and comments, so we'll await developments. If you've got something to say about it, pro or con, write your ARRL representative to make your voice heard.

DITS AND BITS

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Used handheld for 2-meters new ham with little money--can pay up to \$120.00 Call Darren NØOPQ at 635-0866

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Radio shack Model 100 computer w/ carry case, cassette recorder, \$150 Chris, NXØE 495-0624

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CES 500A phone patch \$200
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WANTED: ICOM 725 or other small HF rig. Will consider trades. Jerry Haberer, WAØWSY, 597-2120.

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(719) 475-0582 -FAX

**Membership Application
PIKES PEAK RADIO AMATEUR ASSOCIATION, INC.**

P.O. Box 16521

Colorado Springs, CO 80935

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Call _____ License Class _____

Are You An ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Telephone _____

- Member Over 65 \$10.00
- Family Both Over 65 \$12.00
- Associate Member \$10.00

- Full Member \$15.00
- Family Membership \$18.00
- Newsletter Only \$10.00

Additional Names _____ Call _____ Class _____

Associate Member

☐ (Outside Teller & El Paso Counties.)

☐ RENEWAL ✓ HERE

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY